

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (previously presented) A flat card receiving device for a tachograph in a motor vehicle, the device comprising:
 - means for drawing the card completely into a device interior,
 - an elongate receiving opening through which the card passes into the device in an insertion direction,
 - a locking unit including at least one locking element arranged to be moved into a clear cross section of the receiving opening,
 - wherein the locking element includes at least one abutment area arranged to touch a card located within the device at an outwardly pointing end face or in a region of a corner or rounded section of the card which adjoins an end face, and at least temporarily presses said card in the insertion direction.
2. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, further comprising means for moving the card in the insertion direction essentially in an insertion plane.
3. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the locking element is arranged to be rotatably mounted about a first rotation axis.
4. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 3, wherein the first rotation axis runs perpendicular to the insertion plane of the card.
5. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the card receiving device further comprises:
 - a slotted-link-like first guide, and

wherein the locking element comprises a first guide element being a sliding block, the locking element is arranged to be moved into a locking position and out of the locking position by means of the first guide and the first guide element as well as pivoting about a first rotation axis.

6. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 5, further comprising an actuating lever arranged to be rotated about a second rotation axis, the lever comprising the slotted-link-like first guide.

7. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 5, wherein the locking element comprises an abutment piece arranged to be movably fitted to said locking element so as to at least temporarily bear against the card at the outwardly pointing end face or in the region of a corner or rounded section of the card which adjoins the end face, and at least temporarily presses the card in the insertion direction.

8. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 7, wherein the abutment piece is spring-mounted on the locking element.

9. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 7, wherein the abutment piece is spring-mounted by means of a first leaf spring.

10. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 7, wherein the abutment piece is movably mounted on the locking element essentially tangentially or at an acute angle to a circumferential direction of the first rotation axis of the locking element.

11. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 7, wherein the abutment piece comprises an abutment area oriented obliquely to a direction of movement of the abutment piece in relation to the locking element, said abutment area arranged to bear against the card at an outwardly pointing corner or rounded section during an inward-movement phase.

12. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, further comprising an arresting element fitted to at least one locking element such that it can be moved to an "arrested position" and arrest the locking unit in a "locked position".

13. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 12, wherein the arresting element is fitted precisely to a locking element.

14. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 12, wherein the arresting element is arranged to restrict mobility of the abutment piece in the "arrested position".

15. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 14, wherein the abutment piece has sufficient play with respect to the arresting element in the "arrested position" such that it can move in a sprung manner within tolerances of the card to width, length and form, and the abutment piece has sufficiently little play with respect to the arresting element in the "arrested position" that the clear width of the receiving opening is blocked to such an extent that the card cannot be removed.

16. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 14, wherein the arresting element is arranged to be movably fitted to the locking element.

17. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 14, wherein the arresting element is arranged to be movable in a translatory fashion in relation to the locking element and is mounted on the locking element such that it can slide.

18. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the arresting element is arranged to be controlled and moved by means of an actuating lever.

19. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, where said card receiving device further comprises two locking elements arranged in mirror-image fashion with respect to one another on a middle plane of a receiving shaft oriented perpendicular to the insertion plane, and at the side of the receiving shaft.

20. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the card receiving device further comprises a stop for the card at the end of a receiving shaft.

21. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, where the card is permanently pressed against the stop in the end position by means of an elastic element.

22. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 7, wherein the card is permanently pressed against the stop in the end position by means of the abutment piece.

23. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 20, wherein the stop is fixed to a set of contacts.

24. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 23, wherein the card receiving device further comprises a closure means which extends in the longitudinal direction of the receiving opening and blocks the receiving opening in the "closed position" of the closure means.

25. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 23, wherein the closure element can be moved in the normal direction of the insertion plane for the travel required to receive the card.

26. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 23, wherein the closure element is spring-mounted on the card receiving device by means of at least one elastic element.

27. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 26, wherein the elastic element is a second leaf spring, and the second leaf spring is arranged to be blocked in the "closed position" of the closure means by means of the locking element of the locking unit.

28. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 23, wherein the closure element is integrally fitted to at least one second leaf spring.

29. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 23, wherein the closure element is spring-mounted in the normal direction of the insertion plane for the travel required to receive the card.

30. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 23, wherein the closure means is arranged to be locked in the "closed position" by means of the locking unit.

31. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the locking element is arranged to be moved and/or rotated in a plane essentially parallel to the card moving in the card receiving device.

32. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the card is arranged to be automatically drawn in.

33. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the card is arranged to be automatically ejected.

34. (previously presented) The card receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the card receiving device further comprises a set of contacts for making contact with the card.

35. (previously presented) A method for receiving a card in a card receiving device, the card being substantially flat and the receiving device being configured for operation within a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

- drawing the card by the card receiving device completely into an insertion plane, the device comprising an elongate receiving opening through which the card passes into a receiving shaft of the card receiving device, the receiving device further comprising a locking unit having at least one locking element arranged to be moved into a clear cross section of the receiving opening,
- temporarily bearing upon the card by the locking element at the outwardly pointing end face or in the region of a corner or rounded section of the card which adjoins this end face, and
- at least temporarily pressing the card in the insertion direction.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the locking element permanently presses the card against a stop during writing operations and/or reading operations.

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, further comprising the steps of:

- clamping upon the card with a clamping unit, in a first step,
- transporting the card into the receiving device in a second step,
- releasing the clamping action in a third step, and
- pushing the card, with the locking unit, to an end position in a fourth step.

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein, in the fourth step, the locking unit pushes the card to an end position in which first contacts of a set of contacts are connected to contact areas on the card.

39. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38 further comprising the step of reading information from the card or stored in the card in a fifth step.